



March 4, 2014

**Testimony of Hartford HealthCare**

**Submitted to the Public Health Committee**

**March 5, 2014**

**HB 5384 AAC Reports of Nurse Staffing Levels**

Hartford HealthCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 5384, a proposal that would require hospitals to submit to the Department of Public Health annual reports on prospective nurse staffing plans and quarterly reports of actual daily nurse staffing levels by numerical staff-to-patient ratios for registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and nurses' aides.

Hartford HealthCare opposes HB 5384 as it creates an administrative burden that has no measureable effect on patient care. The data this proposal seeks is readily available to the Department of Public Health anytime that it is requested.

The staffing of patient care units is very dynamic and complex; there are changes in census, acuity and the specific care needs of patients that have to be managed on an every four hour basis (or more frequently as patient care demands) Furthermore, consideration is given to situational factors such as technology needs and availability, and physical layout of the patient care unit. Quarterly reporting of numbers and ratios cannot provide an accurate reflection staffing decisions and levels.

We believe that HB 5348 would not further meaningful accomplishment of patient care quality goals but would impose an unnecessary burden on hospitals and draw upon the time of staff members who we need focused on patient care.

HHC's partners include a tertiary-care teaching hospital, an acute-care community teaching hospital, an acute care hospital & trauma center, two community hospitals, two regional behavior health centers, a statewide clinical laboratory operation, a large primary care physician practice group, a regional home care system and a physical therapy and rehabilitation network

HHC aspires to be the next generation of integrated health systems, marked by strong patient focus, heightened efficiency, consistent quality performance and open, collaborative sharing of best practices. It is dedicated to providing patients with an exceptional, coordinated care experience and a single, high standard of service. Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

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